



**Health Department**

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
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## **PERTUSSIS CASES ARE ON THE RISE— HEALTH COMMISSIONER ENCOURAGES PARENTS TO KEEP CHILDREN'S IMMUNIZATIONS CURRENT**

**Special Saturday Immunization Clinic to be held at two health centers**

The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) will hold two Immunization Clinics on Saturday, September 23, 2004 at Northwest Health Center and Southside Health Center. Because the MHD and other local municipalities are experiencing an outbreak of Pertussis (whooping cough), parents should make certain that all children ages 6 years and under are completely up to date on their childhood immunizations, including pertussis.

"The prevention of illness and disease is a community-wide effort," said Health Commissioner Bevan K. Baker, CHE. "Parents must take a proactive role in keeping their children healthy from Pertussis and all other preventable diseases."

Pertussis is a bacterial infection of the respiratory tract that is transmitted through airborne droplets by face-to-face or close contact with an infected individual. In infants and children, the disease begins much like a common cold and progresses to prolonged and acute coughing, often followed by vomiting and exhaustion. Following the cough, individuals may make a loud whooping sound as they struggle to inhale air. In adults, the symptoms are much milder and varied, but persistent cough (more than one week in duration) is still common. Antibiotic treatment can prevent or limit the severity of pertussis and the period of time a person can transmit it to others.

"Ensuring vaccination is the single most important thing parents can do for their children to prevent severe illness, as well as limiting the spread of disease to the public," said Paul Biedrzycki, Disease Control and Prevention Manager.

The City of Milwaukee Health Department will be holding a special Saturday immunization clinic at two separate Health Centers. No appointment is necessary, but parents are asked to bring their child's medical record.

**WHAT: Special School Immunization Clinic Open To Public**  
**WHEN: Saturday September 25, 2004**

**WHERE: Southside Health Center**  
**1639 South 23<sup>rd</sup> Street**  
**Northwest Health Center**  
**7630 West Mill Road**

**TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**